

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A toner comprising:  
a binder resin comprising a urea-modified polyester resin; and  
a colorant master batch comprising:  
a colorant;  
a resin; and  
a pigment dispersant,

wherein the toner is prepared by a method comprising:  
dissolving or dispersing toner compositions comprising a modified polyester resin capable of being the urea-modified polyester resin and the colorant master batch in an organic solvent to prepare a liquid;  
dispersing the liquid in an aqueous medium comprising resin fine particles while reacting the ~~urea~~-modified polyester resin with at least one of a crosslinker and an elongation agent to prepare particles of urea-modified polyester resin; and  
washing the particles after removing the organic solvent therefrom.

Claim 2 (Original): The toner of Claim 1, wherein a content of the pigment dispersant is 1 to 30 % by weight based on total weight of the colorant.

Claim 3 (Original): The toner of Claim 1, wherein the colorant master batch further comprises a pigment dispersion auxiliary agent.

Claim 4 (Original): The toner of Claim 1, wherein the colorant has a number-average particle diameter not greater than 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$ , and wherein a ratio of particles of the colorant

having a number-average particle diameter not less than 0.7  $\mu\text{m}$  is not greater than 5 % by number.

**Claim 5 (Original):** The toner of Claim 1, wherein the toner compositions further comprises an unmodified polyester resin, and wherein a weight ratio (i/ii) between the modified polyester resin (i) and unmodified polyester resin (ii) is from 5/95 to 25/75.

**Claim 6 (Original):** The toner of Claim 1, further comprising a wax.

**Claim 7 (Original):** The toner of Claim 1, wherein the toner has a glass transition temperature of from 40 to 70  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

**Claim 8 (Original):** The toner of Claim 1, wherein the toner has a volume-average particle diameter of from 4 to 8  $\mu\text{m}$ , and wherein a ratio ( $D_v/D_n$ ) between the volume-average particle diameter ( $D_v$ ) and a number-average particle diameter ( $D_n$ ) of the toner is not greater than 1.25.

**Claim 9 (Original):** The toner of Claim 1, wherein the toner has an average circularity of from 0.94 to 1.00.

**Claim 10 (Original):** The toner of Claim 1, wherein the resin fine particles have an average particle diameter of from 5 to 500 nm.

**Claim 11 (Original):** A developer comprising the toner according to Claim 1.

Claim 12 (Original): An imaging forming method comprising:

charging a photoreceptor;

irradiating the photoreceptor to form an electrostatic latent image thereon;

developing the electrostatic latent image with a toner according to Claim 1 to form a toner image on the photoreceptor;

transferring the toner image onto a transfer sheet; and

fixing the toner image on the transfer sheet.

Claim 13 (Original): A toner container containing the toner according to Claim 1.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:

a charger configured to charge a photoreceptor;

an irradiator configured to irradiate the photoreceptor to form an electrostatic latent image thereon;

~~an image developer for developing the electrostatic latent image with a comprising the toner according to Claim 1 to form a toner image on the photoreceptor;~~

a transferor configured to transfer the toner image onto a transfer sheet; and

a fixer configured to fix the toner image on the transfer sheet.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A detachable process cartridge with an image forming apparatus comprising:

a photoreceptor; and

a member selected from the group consisting of chargers, and cleaners,

~~wherein the and an image developers comprise a developer comprising the toner according to claim 1.~~

Claim 16 (New): The toner of Claim 1, wherein the master batch is prepared by kneading a colorant, a resin and a pigment dispersant.

Claim 17 (New): The toner of Claim 1, wherein the pigment dispersant is a polymer dispersant.